

# ANNUAL REPORT City of Fort Worth 2015

**MAYOR'S WELCOME TABLE OF CONTENTS** 

## FORT WORTH © City of Fort Worth **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

- Mayor's Welcome 3
- City Manager's Letter
- Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals 5
- **Public Safety**
- **Mobility**
- Infrastructure 12
- 14 Connections
- Wellness 16
- **17** Engagement
- Budget 18
- Population 20
- Sustainability 21
- Development 22
- Mayor and Council 26







The City of Fort Worth 2015 Annual Report is published by the Communications and Public Engagement Office. Cover photo courtesy of Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau.

eflecting on the past year, I am incredibly proud of the hard work and achievements for the City of Fort Worth. The future for our city is incredibly bright, and a look at this year's annual report should provide a sense of pride for our outstanding employees and the citizens we serve.

Fort Worth currently stands as the 16th largest city in the U.S. and the fastest growing among large cities. We're beaming after receiving multiple accolades, including No. 1 downtown (Livability), top five com-

2.5 percent.

mercial real estate markets (Urban Land Institute) and the second-best city in the nation for job seekers (Forbes). Last year alone, we saw \$2 billion in new development and boast an impressive annual average growth rate of

As our population continues to grow and expand in all areas of our city, we are focused on managing our increase in residents while maintaining the wonderful treasures that make Fort Worth the best big city with a small-town feel. Additionally, we are actively working to ensure that our citizens have greater access and opportunities to lead healthy lives by promoting active lifestyles, city programming and other initiatives such as FitWorth and Blue Zones Project.

As this report details, within the city we've worked to find ways to become more efficient and productive. We've begun "working smarter" to better serve our citizens who trust the city to deliver quality services with excellent customer support.

It's now up to you: Get educated and get involved in our city! After all, it's your Fort Worth!

Sincerely,

**Betsy Price** Mayor



CITY MANAGER'S LETTER MISSION/VISION

hope you'll grab a hot cup of coffee and take some time to read through the City of Fort Worth Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015. As one of the fastest-growing large cities in the nation — and one of the most livable communities — we have a lot of achievements and milestones to share with you.

Fort Worth's traditions and charm make it as comfortable as an old boot, while its innovation, thoughtful development and bigcity convenience make it one of the most exciting and alluring places to live and work.



Distinctive neighborhoods, dynamic business districts, renowned institutions, world-class cultural offerings, wide-ranging recreational opportunities, a strong commitment to historic preservation — all of these characteristics have helped Fort Worth thrive for more than 165 years.

This annual report provides a handy summary of Fort Worth's accomplishments over the past year. Of course, we want you to tell us how we can do better. Our citizen survey, conducted last spring, provided great insight, but we'd love to hear directly from you.

I'm looking forward to another productive year with our residents, community leaders, City Council and city staff. I hope to see you around town!

Sincerely,

**David Cooke**City Manager

### **MISSION**

Working together to build a strong community.

### **VISION**

Fort Worth will be the most livable and best managed city in the country.

### A FOUNDATION OF OUR VALUES

- Exceptional Customer Service
- Accountability
- Ethical Behavior
- Diversity
- Mutual Respect
- Continuous Improvement

### **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC GOALS**

- Make Fort Worth the nation's safest major city.
- Improve mobility and air quality.
- Create and maintain a clean, attractive city.
- Strengthen the economic base, develop the future workforce and create quality job opportunities.
- Promote orderly and sustainable development.



**TRAINING** 

### **New complex boasts latest** technology for police, fire

The Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex, at West Felix and South Hemphill streets, replaces an aging facility and adds modern technology to help meet the demands of the city's public safety departments.

Two pre-World War II warehouses were repurposed for the new training center, which consists of 500,000 square feet of indoor training space.

The training center, which opened in April, includes a 30,000-square-foot warehouse capable of simulating a variety of industrial and hazardous material scenarios. There is an eight-story high rise and a two-story residential

fire training building, dive training facility flashover survival training chamber, simulated collapsed parking



The new Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex features indoor and outdoor training environments, classrooms and office space, firing ranges, indoor tactical training areas, a driving course and a live fire training structure.

garage for urban search and rescue training and an emergency vehicle driving course.

Additionally, the complex contains a

30,000-square-foot indoor tactical training village, which simulates a city streetscape.

The complex's indoor firing range includes a 50-yard tactical range, 25-yard tactical range, 100-yard rifle range and a small 25-yard range for individual training.

The City Council approved a resolution naming the new Public Safety Complex in memory of Bob Bolen, the longest-serving mayor of Fort Worth.

homeless dog — a dog that was abandoned and barely surviving on the streets of Fort Worth. Fortunately, he landed at the

**New treatment ward provides** 

needed medical services

Mayor Betsy Price visits animals at the Chuck Silcox Animal Shelter. It's estimated that 2.400 animals can be nursed back to health each year in the new medical treatment ward.

Henry — a now five-year-old Labrador-mix —

Chuck Silcox

Animal Shelter.

ANIMAL CARE

It started with

the story of one

was adopted into a loving family, received all the medical treatment he needed and now serves as an ambassador on behalf of all shelter pets in Fort Worth.

Every day, animals just like Henry find themselves at the shelter and in need of medical treatment that simply had been unavailable at the shelter — until this year.

The City of Fort Worth and the Community Foundation of North Texas opened a new medical treatment ward at the animal shelter that expands shelter capacity and provides much-needed medical services.

Identified as a need in 2009 as part of the city's plan

to increase live outcomes at the animal shelter, the medical ward was one of the final pieces of a puzzle that included increasing adoptions, increasing efforts to spay and neuter pets, developing strong partnerships with rescue organizations, reducing the number of animals entering the shelter and providing a healthy environment for animals at the shelter.

Building the first medical treatment ward in North Texas

to be attached to an animal shelter, however, carried a large price tag. Through the Community Foundation of North Texas, \$1.2 million from private donors and foundations helped make this dream a reality.



Henry, once a homeless and ill dog, now serves as an ambassador for all Fort Worth shelter pets.

**POLICE** 

## Sixth precinct, in far north, will boost emergency response times

Plans are marching forward for a sixth police patrol division in far north Fort Worth that will eventually house 96 officers.

The City Council will seek development proposals for construction of a 23,000-square-foot facility on 10 acres in far north Fort Worth for the new precinct. The project is estimated to cost between \$11 million and \$14 million.

North Fort Worth is the fastest-growing part of the city, yet response times to emergency calls are among the worst, statistics show.

Plans call for the precinct to be operational by fiscal year

2018. A three-year process to start the division begins in the 2016 fiscal year, with 25 officers in the budget.

Money is also earmarked in the Crime Control and Prevention District budget for the new precinct.

The population of far north Fort Worth grew 114 percent from 2000-2010, when the U.S. Census counted 210,000 residents. If the area around Alliance Airport stood alone as a city, it would be the fifth-fastest growing in the nation, according to a 2013 report from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

## Bond program to yield two new fire stations for fast-growth areas

Two new fire stations are on the drawing board to enhance public safety in the high-growth outer regions of Fort Worth.

Fire Station 42 will be located at Spinks Airport to serve far south Fort Worth. The project, in the design stages, will cost \$4.4 million.

Source: Livability.com

Fire Station 43 will be constructed in far west Fort Worth to serve the Walsh Ranch development. The station will include a four-bay station with about 11,000 square feet. The \$4.7 million project is in the planning stages.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 4 of the 2014 Bond Proposition to fund construction of the stations. TRANSPORTATION

# Billions of dollars being spent to improve mobility around Fort Worth

Lately, it seems orange barrels have been as much a part of the Fort Worth scene as cowboy boots.

In addition to work ramping up on neighborhood streets and arterials as part of the city's bond program, several larger-scale projects are either in the final stages or are in full-blown construction mode.

### I-35W expansion

Work continues at a fast pace on a years-long project that will relieve one of the state's most congested corridors.

The I-35W project will reconstruct more than 10 miles of freeway and add managed lanes, which give drivers the option of paying a toll to use them. The project is expected to improve safety by upgrading the expressway and adding two new lanes in each direction. The I-820/I-35W interchange will also be reconstructed.

Construction north of the I-820/I-35W interchange is expected to be completed in late 2017; construction south of the interchange is expected to be completed in 2018.

The reconstruction will bring the existing general-purpose lanes and interchange up to current design standards to address safety issues with the highway, improving the distance from exit ramps to cross-street intersections, shoulder width, bridge clearances and merging distances at the interchange.

### **Chisholm Trail Parkway**

Direct-connector ramps at Interstate 30, 20 and SH 183 are open, and final punch-list and landscaping duties were being wrapped up on the long-awaited Chisholm Trail Parkway.

The 27-mile roadway provides a continuous route for motorists traveling from the downtown Fort Worth business district south to Cleburne.

Chisholm Trail alleviates congestion on Interstate 35W, State Highway 174, FM 1187, Bryant Irvin Road, Hulen Street and other roadways. The roadway marked the North Texas Tollway Authority's first venture in Tarrant and Johnson counties.



The road known as North Freeway topped a list of the 100 Most Congested Roadways.

ROADWAYS

## **Chisholm Trail Parkway features distinctive Cowtown touches**

Drivers on Chisholm Trail Parkway may notice some familiar design features incorporated along the corridor, a nod to Fort Worth's rich history.

Monuments line many of the intersections along the Chisholm Trail Parkway, and those in downtown Fort Worth are lit with spotlights. These monuments are designed to resemble the monuments that sit on the Will Rogers Memorial Center grounds on Lancaster Avenue.

Fort Worth's Art Deco Zigzag Moderne motif, embedded seamlessly along the parkway, is a reoccurring theme. The design is featured in the architecture of buildings and bridges in downtown Fort Worth, including new hotels and fire stations.

Commuters with a keen eye traveling through town might notice the design on the top floors of the Texas and Pacific Railway Terminal, located just north of I-30 in downtown Fort Worth. The zigzag motif is evident along the tollway in many places, sometimes hidden in plain sight. It is on the lighting and toll gantry structures, on retaining walls and in the green ornamental fences along West Vickery Boulevard.



Note the zigzag pattern along the exterior wall of the Chisholm Trail Parkway. This monument is on the north side of Montgomery Street.



The much-needed Chisholm Trail Parkway, conceived in the 1960s as Southwest Parkway, creates faster, safer, more efficient routes for drivers in Fort Worth, Tarrant and Johnson counties.

TRANSPORTATION

# New commission will give guidance on bike, pedestrian improvements

For several years, Fort Worth has had comprehensive plans on the books to make the city friendlier to cyclists and pedestrians. In 2015, the City Council established a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission.

Creating an advisory committee serving the needs of people who walk and bicycle was a recommendation in both the Walk Fort Worth and Bike Fort Worth plans as a way to ensure effective communication and coordination with the public.

The commission will provide recommendations to the city manager, City Plan Commission and City Council and will report to the City Council annually.

The Walk Fort Worth Plan is intended to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment for people who choose to walk for their health or for transportation to local destinations. The plan is also intended to improve mobility options for people who rely on wheelchairs, motorized



The Near Southside neighborhood is emerging as a popular byway for bicyclists.

scooters or other mobility aids to get around.

The Bike Fort Worth Plan is the city's comprehensive plan for developing a bicycle-friendly environment complete with policies, programs and facilities, assisting residents by providing a safe and attractive alternative mode of transportation.



**HONORS** 

# Transportation & Public Works Department earns prestigious national accreditation

Fort Worth's Transportation & Public Works Department



has been awarded the prestigious American Public Works Association accreditation.

The APWA recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally, as contained in the APWA Public Works

Management Practices Manual.

"Fort Worth's APWA accreditation shows that we have dedicated ourselves to concepts of improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices," said TPW Director Doug W. Wiersig. "The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the public works and transportation staff whose mission is to provide public works services and programs that contribute to making Fort Worth a great city."

The Transportation & Public Works Department's key services include maintaining street surfaces, sidewalks, stormwater channels, storm drains/inlets, traffic signals, street lights and rail crossings. The department also routinely analyzes and recommends transit and roadway projects that will reduce congestion, improve air quality and move traffic.

Fort Worth became the 93rd agency in North America to receive accreditation and the sixth in Texas, joining Arlington, College Station, Plano, Haltom City and Houston. TRANSIT

### **TEX Rail development milestones help get North Texas on track**

Fort Worth residents may soon be able to board a train for Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and connect to other parts of the region through an evolving rail system.

TEX Rail developers achieved numerous milestones this year:

**Federal funding.** TEXRail was allocated \$100 million in the FY16 budget as a Federal Transit Administration recommended transit project.

**Engineering phase.** The Fort Worth Transportation Authority received approval from the Federal

Transit Administration to advance TEX Rail into the engineering phase that immediately precedes the start of construction.

### Vehicle purchase.

The T signed a contract in June with Stadler Bussnang AG for the manufacture and delivery of eight Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) rail vehicles. The T began the procurement process for DMU vehicles in 2014 due



 ${\it Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) \ rail \ vehicles \ will \ operate \ on \ the \ 27-mile \ TEX \ Rail \ commuter \ line.}$ 

to the three-year lead time for developing specifications, production, delivery and staff training.

The TEX Rail commuter rail will run on a 27-mile corridor with 10 stations from downtown Fort Worth, northeast across Tarrant County to Grapevine and into Terminal B at DFW Airport. It will have a projected average daily ridership of more than 10,000 in its initial year of service.

Scott Mahaffey, The T's board chair, acknowledged the strong support for the project from the City of Fort Worth, the City of Grapevine, Tarrant County and other stakeholders. "You are the key to our continuing with this vital commuter rail project that will connect downtown Fort Worth with northeast

Tarrant County and Grapevine and into DFW Airport," Mahaffey said.



"This is an important partnership milestone for the region." Construction is expected to begin in early 2016, with route operation to begin in late 2018.

Daily ridership is anticipated to exceed 10,000 in the service's first year, according to The T.

## High-speed rail connector.

High-performance rail service between Fort Worth and Dallas is another project on planners' tables.

The rail connector project envisions a faster, limited-stop rail service that could connect possible future high-speed rail lines being planned for Dallas

and Fort Worth. The Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration were conducting environmental impact studies.

Potential track locations are in or near Fort Worth, Haltom City, Richland Hills, Euless, Irving, Arlington, Grand Prairie and Dallas.





CAPITAL PROJECTS

# Bond-funded improvements helping build a strong community

In 2014, Fort Worth voters approved a \$292 million bond package for improvements to streets and roadways, libraries, parks, fire safety and municipal service facilities.

Population growth and aging infrastructure require new streets and improvements to existing infrastructure. That's why the City Council asked voters to approve the largest bond package in Fort Worth's history. And most importantly, there was no increase in property taxes.

Expanding, replacing or updating buildings and infrastructure are important to keeping Fort Worth vibrant. Projects reflect the community's highest priorities and focus on mobility, safety and quality of life and represent all areas of the city.

And, as one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., more infrastructure is needed to continue serving residents.

Projects are underway, and many more are on the horizon. The entire bond package is scheduled to be completed over five years.



 $Bond-funded\ improvements\ are\ important\ to\ keeping\ Fort\ Worth\ a\ vibrant\ city.$ 

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### 2014 BOND PROGRAM 5-YEAR SPENDING PLAN





PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Street rehabilitation scheduled on 71 neighborhood streets.
- Concrete replacement scheduled on 122 streets.
- Improvements on 13 arterials in planning, design or bid/award phases.
- Silver Creek Road under construction.

Streets and transportation

- Mark IV Parkway under construction.
- Quiet Zones established at 11 railroad crossings.
- Hillside Neighborhood street light installation underway.
- Sidewalk construction underway on 36 segments citywide.
- Heritage Trace and Tehama Ridge intersections under construction.
- East Lancaster traffic signal improvements at six intersections underway.
- Bike lanes installed on Allen/Maddox and Miller Avenue.

### Parks, recreation and community centers

- Park improvements at five parks under construction.
- Ten park improvement projects in bid and award phase.
- Two community center expansions and one new community center under design.
- Eleven park improvement projects in design phase.

### Library system

- Property purchase for an eastside library.
- Property purchased for a far north library.

#### Fire safety

- Design in progress of Fire Station No. 42 that will serve south Fort Worth.
- Planning of Fire Station No. 43 that will serve far west Fort Worth residents underway.

### **Municipal Court facilities**

• Design of Americans with Disabilities Act improvements to the city's municipal courts building in progress.

### Municipal service facility

- North service center for city services in the bid and award phase.
- Municipal vehicle maintenance facility under design.

### Animal care and control

• Expansion of the Chuck Silcox Animal Care and Control facility is in design.





**EXECUTE** LEARN MORE

#### **OUTREACH**

# New name exemplifies strategic focus for Community Engagement Office

This year, the Neighborhood Education Office moved from the Planning & Development Department to the Communications & Public Engagement Office, a realignment seen as an ideal way to use existing resources and city staff to communicate the city's messages to residents.

The office, which became known as the Community Engagement Office and is part of the City Manager's Office, is responsible for

neighborhood capacity building and for developing communication networks with other city stakeholders such as faith-based groups, schools and nonprofits that are vital to the success of city initiatives and programs.

The office facilitates adult and school-age educational presentations, after-school and community center presentations and neighborhood association meetings.

During the annual Neighborhood Dinner and Awards,



neighborhood leaders are honored for community outreach, volunteer recruitment, outstanding spirit and ability to build strong neighborhood connections.

The Community
Engagement Office has
begun digitally publishing its
first newsletter. *Connecting Communities* celebrates the
unique relationship between
its office and the community
it serves.

Though the name of the

office may have changed, the focus on building strong neighborhoods, schools and entire communities will continue moving forward.





School-age and adult educational presentations help spread the word about city initiatives and programs.

#### TECHNOLOGY

# New FortWorthTexas.gov simplifies web experience, makes way for bigger improvements

The end of the 2015 fiscal year brought to fruition a year-long effort to bring the city's website, FortWorthTexas.gov, into a more modern look and feel after nearly a decade with the same design.

When the city's website was first redesigned in 2005, content was broken into flyout menus and placed under overly broad topics. The result was a slow site, with links hidden deep behind difficult-to-understand terms.

Most site visitors, frustrated by an assault of menu items on the city homepage, turned to outside search engines, not the website navigation or site search, to find what they were looking for.

The latest overhaul puts what visitors need front and center by using the terms they type into searches or questions about the site to create new categories.

Twelve links and a search box are all most users will see when first loading the site, instead of nearly 40 links as before. The goal is to allow a visitor to quickly pick from a small selection of topics, run a site search or scroll down the page to featured content.



#### TRANSPARENCY

# Open data and OneAddress promote access, accountability

Fort Worth launched an open data program that aims to make government data freely and publicly available for anyone to use. The open data program is expected to increase transparency and accountability; boost resident engagement; and spur economic development.

However, open data that is useful to application developers may not be the easiest source for everyday users. That's why OneAddress was developed. The new program can address numerous situations, for example:

- A prospective homeowner seeking to buy a home in Fort Worth wants to check out the surrounding neighborhood before signing papers.
- A local church congregation wonders whether recent construction in the area has led to an increase in crime and has asked city officials to look into the matter.
- A new building going up has everyone in the neighborhood asking what will be built, and who's involved in the project.

OneAddress launched in late 2015 and, in its earliest phase, includes three datasets:

Source: MSN Money

- Police incident information.
- Code Compliance cases.
- Permitting and inspections.

tions to improve the application.

All of this data can be accessed without charge <u>online</u>. Over time, the plan calls for incorporating data and apps on a regular schedule with a continuous flow of data. A focus group will review the data program and offer sugges-

"The idea behind OneAddress is that data generated by the government should be available to the people it governs, to the greatest extent possible," said Mayor Betsy Price. "This information should be available in an online format that permits access and analysis, while promoting transparency and accountability.

"By opening up troves of data to the public in its raw form— and providing the context for people to use it — we are giving residents, developers, business owners and neighborhood leaders unprecedented access to Fort Worth's municipal data," Price said.

WELLNESS ENGAGEMENT

**WELL-BEING** 

# In its first year, Blue Zones Project says, 'Live long, Fort Worth'

Small changes can lead to folks living longer and healthier lives. That's the gist of the Blue Zones Project, a communitywide health improvement initiative launched in 2015.

With leadership from the City of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Texas Health Resources and others, Blue Zones Project is a proven approach to helping people live longer, healthier and happier lives.

Blue Zones Project was born out of National Geographic explorer Dan Buettner's examination of communities across the

globe where people were happily living the longest. A team of medical researchers, anthropologists, demographers and epidemiologists uncovered nine evidence-based common



denominators among these "Blue Zones," such as moving naturally and having a sense of purpose.

By 2018, Fort Worth hopes to become a Blue Zones-Designated Community, with the potential to save the city, businesses and residents millions of dollars in

healthcare costs.

So far, a number of Fort Worth organizations are getting in the Zone.

The Fairmount Neighborhood became the first voluntary neighborhood association in the nation to complete an organizational checklist for the Blue Zones Project.



Mayor Betsy Price participates in a Walking School Bus as part of the Blue Zones Project.

Several recognized restaurants offer Blue Zones-approved menu items and other best practices that make healthy choices easier when dining out. And three local grocery outlets achieved Blue Zones Project status by completing a pledge and adopting or supporting a selection of best practices from a menu of 35 options such as adding a Blue Zones checkout lane, highlighting Blue Zones foods throughout the store and adding well-being parking spots farther out to promote walking.



### CITIZEN SURVEY

# Majority of residents satisfied with city services; public safety, streets merit attention

A majority of Fort Worth residents are satisfied with city services, although they would like to see more emphasis placed on street and facility maintenance and public safety services.

Those are the major findings of a citizen survey, conducted in spring 2015 by ETC Institute of Olathe, Kan.

More than three-fourths of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of life in Fort Worth.

Survey results are being used by city staff to improve and to make resource recommendations to the City Council.

### **Major findings**

**Public safety.** Eighty-one percent were satisfied with the quality of fire protection, and 81 percent were satisfied with fire response times. Residents thought public safety services should receive the most emphasis over the next two years.

**Parks and recreation.** Eighty-two percent said they were satisfied with the Fort Worth Zoo, while 65 percent were satisfied with the maintenance of city parks and 58 percent were satisfied with the quality of facilities in city parks.

**Communication.** Sixty-eight percent were satisfied with the quality of the city's utility bill inserts, including *City Times*; 50 percent were satisfied with the <u>city's web page</u>. The sources that residents use most to gain information about the city include, in order, *City Times*, local media and the website.

**Solid waste services.** More than three-fourths were satisfied with the quality of curbside recycling; 76 percent were satisfied with residential garbage collection; and 70 percent were satisfied with drop-off stations for garbage, brush, recycling and bulk trash.



Seventy-six percent of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of life in Fort Worth.

### **Traffic and transportation.** Fifty-six

percent of residents were satisfied with the ease of walking in neighborhoods; 53 percent were satisfied with the condition of neighborhood streets; and 50 percent were satisfied with the adequacy of street lighting in neighborhoods. Residents thought the most important traffic and transportation service to emphasize over the next two years was the condition of neighborhood streets.





### **FINANCES**

## 2016 budget maintains tax rate, increases capital improvements funding to improve infrastructure

Fort Worth's operating budget — nearly \$1.6 billion — focuses on sustainable solutions to current challenges with no increase to the property tax rate.

Rising property values and sales tax receipts improved the fiscal outlook for the 2016 budget, allowing departments to address the growing demand for services with the revenue the city receives. Even with the improved situation, City Council and staff focused on structuring the budget to continue improving upon the already stable financial position of the city.

The budget continues a commitment to maintain and expand resources for infrastructure by shifting nearly \$0.01 of the tax rate to capital funding. This shift provides nearly \$5.4 million in additional resources to maintain the city's infrastructure.

### **Budget outcomes**

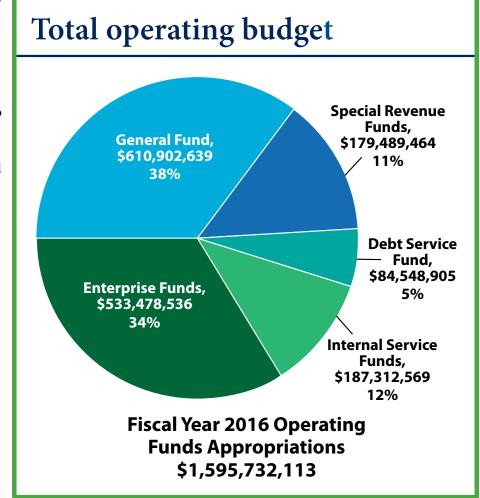
- No property tax rate increase.
- Eliminates the use of fund balance in the General Fund.
- Provides increased funding for the Capital Plan.
- Funds priority issues, such as the operating impact of new facilities and salary and wage adjustments for all employees.
- Increases transparency around the city's financial position and addresses funds operating in a deficit position.

### **General Fund highlights**

• \$611 million.

18

- Eliminates the use of fund balance.
- Funds operational costs of opening new facilities, including



the Bob Bolen Public Safety Training Center, Victory Forest Community Center and an expanded Animal Shelter.

- Addresses community priorities by allocating dollars to the addition of a sixth patrol precinct in far north Fort Worth, funds firefighters previously paid from a grant program and allocates dollars to purchase more library materials.
- Continues to provide an environment where the city can recruit and retain employees by providing funds for the collective bargaining agreement, the meet-and-

confer contract and implements a classification and compensation study for general employees.

### Crime Control and Prevention District budget highlights

- Provides funding for the construction of a sixth precinct in far north Fort Worth.
- Includes appropriations for training an additional 25 officers, part of a three-year phased plan to allocate staff in far north Fort Worth.
- Capital funds are included for facility renovations and expansions to address the needs of the Police Department.





The current city budget shifts a portion of the tax rate to capital funding for needed infrastructure construction and maintenance.



Source: Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

POPULATION SUSTAINABILITY

**CENSUS** 

# Estimates place Fort Worth population at 812,238



Home construction — particularly in the far north and far west sectors of Fort Worth — continues at a fast pace to accommodate the city's new residents.

The latest estimates from the U.S. Census show Fort Worth has grown to 812,238 residents.

Fort Worth regained its spot as the 16th-largest U.S. city. Charlotte, N.C., had surpassed Fort Worth in the 2013 count, but the two cities again traded positions in 2014.

Fort Worth and four other Texas cities are among the U.S. top 10 in population gain between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014. Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth each added between 18,000 and almost 36,000 people in that 12-month period.

Between 2010 and 2014, four Texas cities were among the 10 fastest-growing cities in the U.S. for cities with a population larger than 500,000. Fort Worth grew from 741,206 in 2010 to 812,238 in 2014, a 9.58 percent change. Other Texas cities among the 10 fastest-growing cities were Austin (15.49 percent growth), San Antonio (8.23 percent) and Houston (6.67 percent).

The new figures support projections that the state's population will double by 2050.

# Water Department's Village Creek facility turns waste into energy

The Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility is a leader in energy recovery in the wastewater sector. The treatment plant opened in 1958 and has always been dedicated to using resources efficiently — including energy recycling.

Village Creek serves Fort Worth and 23 surrounding communities. It is Fort Worth's sole sewage treatment facility. Permitted to treat an average of 166 million gallons per day, the current average daily flow is about 100 million gallons. All products and byproducts of the wastewater treatment process are reused.

Since the early 1960s, methane produced during anaerobic digestion has been captured to generate electricity. The original internal combustion engines were replaced in 2001 with two 5.2-megawatt, cleaner burning, turbine engines.

Fort Worth and Johnson Controls Inc. have partnered on a \$35 million infrastructure renewal project. The ultimate

goal is to make Village Creek a net-zero energy facility.

So far, this project has reduced electricity consumption by 39 percent, which has taken more than \$2.6 million off the plant's electric bills annually. Also, Oncor Electric provided \$1.3 million in rebates to the water/wastewater utility because of its electric demand reductions.

### Village Creek facts

- Treated flow 39.7 billion gallons.
- Average daily flow 108.5 million gallons.
- Serves a population of 900,000, including 22 communities.
- Produces and beneficially reuses about 41,246 dry tons per year of biosolids.
- Reuses about 68,732,244 gallons of water on nearby golf courses.

WATER

**CONSERVATION** 

### Fort Worth facility receives Peak Performance Award

Fort Worth's Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility was recognized for 25 years of 100 percent permit compliance by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

NACWA's Peak
Performance Awards
recognize member agence

recognize member agency facilities for excellence in permit compliance. Village Creek received the Platinum Award, which recognizes facilities that have achieved 100 percent permit compliance for a

minimum of five consecutive years.

850

Only three other facilities in the country are recognized

Performance A W A R D S for equal or longer compliance records — 25, 26 and 28 years — and all are significantly smaller than the Village Creek plant, which is permitted for 166 million gallons of average daily flow.

"To have 100 percent compliance for this length of time is a testament to the

dedication of our current and former employees to protect public health and the environment," said Fort Worth Water Director John Carman.



REVITALIZATION

# South Main 'complete streets' project part of area's ongoing rebirth

The Near Southside's next transformative project is a South Main Street "complete street" project that extends from Vickery Boulevard to Magnolia Avenue.

The project, which broke ground in March 2015, will include a new concrete roadway; wider sidewalks lined with trees and historic lamp posts; upgraded water, sewer and stormwater utilities; protected parallel parking for adjacent businesses; dedicated lanes for bicyclists; and distinctive sidewalk sculptures by renowned artist Benito Huerta.

The new South Main will complement an exciting set of redevelopment projects already being built, with many more on the drawing board. The \$8.6 million project is the result of work by community-minded businesses and property owners over the last decade to revitalize South Main Village.



The complete-street program aims to create functional and inviting streets that meet the needs of all users while also supporting the Near Southside's continued revitalization. (Rendering courtesy of Dunaway Associates)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

# Urban Village concept targets areas poised for redevelopment

A city within a city. That's the way developers envision the 16 urban villages in various stages of implementation around Fort Worth's older neighborhoods.



The Six Points Urban Village is centered around the Race Street commercial center at the intersection of Race, Riverside and Belknap streets.

public art features.

Urban villages are small geographic areas — usually one square mile — zoned for dense, multi-use development that is mass-transit and pedestrian friendly. Parks, businesses, entertainment, homes and shopping are all within walking distance of each other in an area with a consistent look and feel that emphasizes the culture and heritage of those who call it home.

Some recent developments:

22



Hemphill/Berry Urban Village. Work on a streetscape project is underway. In June, the City Council approved a contract for \$670,337 to construct pedestrian and streetscape improvements in the public rights-of-way along Hemphill Street between Bowie and Devitt streets. Improvements will include new sidewalks, curbs and gutters; colored textured concrete; pavement enhancements; pedestrian lights; landscaping and irrigation; and benches and trash receptacles with

**Six Points Urban Village.** The city is in the design phase of a federally funded streetscape project along Race Street. The project is bounded by Sylvania Avenue on the west and the Six Points intersection (Belknap Street, Race Street and Riverside Drive) on the east.

**South Main Urban Village.** This village will complement an exciting set of redevelopment projects already being built, with many more on the drawing board.

**PUBLIC EVENTS** 

### Multipurpose arena construction set for 2017

Once Fort Worth residents overwhelmingly approved three ballot propositions funding a new Multipurpose Arena adjacent to the Will Rogers Memorial Center, planning for the new facility went into high gear.

The state-of-theart Multipurpose Arena will be built just south of the livestock



A 14,000-seat Multipurpose Arena will complement Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum.

A group of privatesector donors has agreed to provide half of the \$450 million projected costs. There will be no increases in city property tax, sales tax or hotel occupancy tax rates, and there is no expected impact on the city's General Fund or Public Events Fund.

Arena construction

barns between Montgomery Street and Trail Drive. The
new facility will complement the architectural style of the
Will Rogers District and can host concerts, family shows,
sporting events, ceremonies, rodeos and equestrian shows.

is scheduled to begin in January 2017, and work on the parking garage is scheduled to begin in 2016.

TRINITY RIVER VISION

## Project aims to ensure river remains a valuable asset for the entire community

The master plan for the Trinity River is a concept literally decades in the making.

Encouraged by community volunteers in the 1980s, developed by urban designers and consultants in the 1990s and adopted by the City Council in 2003, the Trinity River Vision Master Plan encompasses 88 miles of the Trinity River and its greenbelts and tributaries winding through Fort Worth.

The vision has always been to advocate for this natural resource, keeping the river beautiful, accessible, enjoyable and productive.

The Trinity River Vision Authority is the organization responsible for implementing the plan that connects every neighborhood in the city to the Trinity River corridor. The primary role of the project is to provide needed flood protection, but it also adds new recreational amenities,

improves infrastructure, provides environmental enhancements and programs events.

The Trinity River Vision will create a vibrant, pedestrianoriented urban waterfront neighborhood adjacent to downtown Fort Worth, expand Gateway Park into one of the largest urban-programmed parks in the nation and enhance the river corridor with more than 90 user-requested projects along the Trinity Trails.

TRVA aims to attract business and entertainment to the district and is in charge of programming public spaces, including the Panther Island Pavilion, a waterfront music venue and festival space directly adjacent to downtown Fort Worth.

In 2015, the Army Corps of Engineers awarded \$17.4 million to the Panther Island/Central City for "valley storage" projects, better known as flood control basins, along the river.



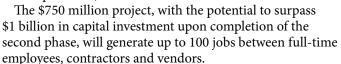


Miles of new trail around Marine Creek Lake resulting from community requests for more recreation opportunities around the lake. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Facebook building world's most environmentally friendly data center

Fort Worth will add a globally recognized brand to its roll of industry-leading companies with the announcement that Facebook will build up to three 250,000-square-foot data centers in the AllianceTexas development in far north Fort Worth.

Grading of the 110-acre property, located on the northeast corner of Park Vista Boulevard and State Highway 170, started in summer 2015; construction on the first data center is expected to be completed in June 2016.



The new buildings are expected to be the world's most environmentally friendly data centers based on energy usage, the use of continuously recycled water and other green building



Facebook has three other data centers in the United States and one in Sweden. This is a rendering of the Fort Worth facility.

attributes and credits required for LEED certification.

"The future economic growth opportunities related to data centers and data warehouses are staggering," said Mayor Betsy Price. "There are so many factors that drive business location decisions for data center companies — availability of land, an ample talent pool to recruit and retain workers, high quality of life and premium location — and Fort

Worth offers all of these and more. As a result, we are in an enviable position to attract global leaders like Facebook, and we are excited to welcome them to our community."

Facebook researched more than 200 communities in seeking a location for its newest and largest data center. Extensive negotiations, including an incentive package approved by the Fort Worth City Council and Tarrant County in May 2015, continued for nearly a year.

FAR NORTH

## Hillwood Properties' AllianceTexas is economic engine driving growth

AllianceTexas is estimated to have a \$4.75 billion annual economic impact.

The latest figure brings the total for the 25-year-old development in far north Fort Worth to \$55.3 billion. Insight Research Corp. of Dallas compiled a report that totaled investments and the value of jobs at the development.

More than 3,000 new jobs were added at Alliance in 2014, including Heritage Bag Co., Tarrant County College's aviation and logistics learning center, several new medical facilities and a distribution site for LG Electronics.

Hillwood Properties, developer of Alliance, pays property taxes to Fort Worth, Roanoke, Haslet, Westlake, Tarrant County and Denton County, in addition to the Keller and Northwest school districts. Fort Worth has received

\$276.4 million in property taxes since the inception of the

More development is on the drawing board. The Federal Aviation Administration moves into its new regional office at Alliance this year, and FedEx Ground will open a distribution center.

In addition, a former American Airlines maintenance base at city-owned Alliance Airport that has sat empty for nearly two years has a new tenant. GDC Technics of San Antonio, one of the world's largest aircraft modification companies, will hire as many as 600 workers over five years. The company is leasing 840,000 square feet of hangar and warehouse space at the former American Airlines maintenance facility at the airport. The entire facility is 1.8 million square feet, leaving room for one or more additional tenants.

Farmer Brothers, which supplies coffee to food-service providers, is relocating to Alliance from Torrance, Calif. The company is building a 537,000-square-foot facility on I-35W and Ashmore Lane.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## **Funding approved for Tarleton Fort Worth** campus beside Chisholm Trail Parkway

An all-purpose academic and administrative building for the new Tarleton State University Fort Worth campus was among the projects included in the Texas Legislature's approval of \$3.1 billion in construction.

The bill provided nearly \$40 million to build the first structure on 80 acres along the Chisholm Trail Parkway donated by The Walton Group of Companies.



An artist's concept shows a fully developed Tarleton State University campus in Fort Worth.



2030

Tarleton Fort Worth currently has more than 1,600 students in 48 degree and certificate programs. The number of students is expected to climb to 2,500 by the time the new building opens, possibly in 2018.

"Access to highquality educational

opportunities and institutions provides a strong anchor for great communities, strong economic development and a bright prosperous future," District 6 Councilmember Jungus Jordan said.

The new campus, situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Chisolm Trail Parkway and Old Granbury Road, is planned as an anchor at the heart of Walton's Rock Creek Ranch development, which will create commercial, mixed-use and residential spaces.

Tarleton is working on infrastructure for streets and utilities with Walton, the City of Fort Worth and the North Texas Tollway Authority. A north-south street will create access to the property while forming the western edge of the campus. A new on-off ramp from the tollway also is envisioned.





Source: Keep Fort Worth Beautiful

## **Your Mayor and City Council**



Betsy Price
Mayor
817-392-6118
Betsy.Price@FortWorthTexas.gov



Sal Espino
District 2
817-392-8802
District2@FortWorthTexas.gov



W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman
District 3
817-392-8803
District3@FortWorthTexas.gov



Cary Moon
District 4
817-392-8804
District4@FortWorthTexas.gov



Gyna Bivens
District 5
817-392-8805
Gyna.Bivens@FortWorthTexas.gov



Jungus Jordan
District 6
817-392-8806
District6@FortWorthTexas.gov



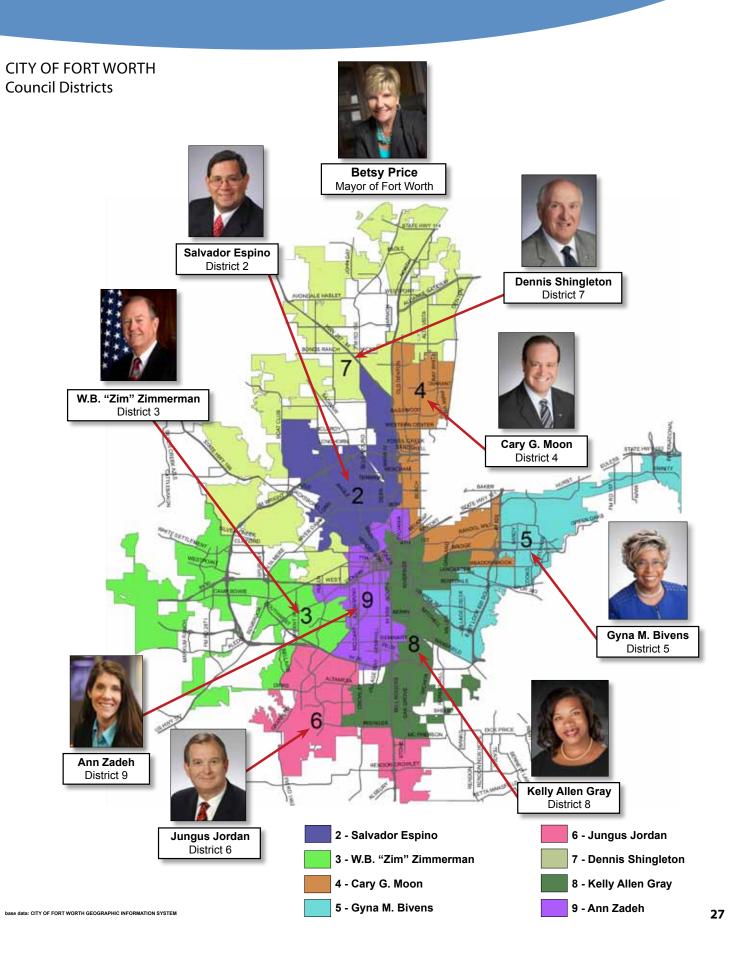
Dennis Shingleton
District 7
817-392-8807
District7@FortWorthTexas.gov



Kelly Allen Gray
District 8
817-392-8808
District8@FortWorthTexas.gov



Ann Zadeh
District 9
817-392-8809
District9@FortWorthTexas.gov



26

